G-5's "Eye on AMC"
U.S. Army Materiel Command
Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War
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AMC Force Protection assessed by HQDA

From July 15 to 17, the AMC Security, Force Protection and Law Enforcement Directorate underwent an assessment from Department of the Army. Throughout the course of the assessment, every aspect of security was closely scrutinized. From Information Assurance to Antiterrorism, AMC was deemed "ahead of the game" when it comes to protecting personnel and assets. Several of the programs and policies already implemented by AMC were taken back by the HQDA for distribution throughout the entire Army.

While the assessment was favorable, the AMC SFPLE Team will continue to strive to make a good program even better.

Letterkenny earns Army's highest honor for environmental stewardship

"This award demonstrates the tremendous efforts and innovative techniques indicative of great civilians," said Col. Bill Guinn, Letterkenny Army Depot commander, as he accepted the 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Restoration at an AMC headquarters award ceremony July 22. Geoffrey Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, presented the award, praising the Letterkenny workforce for their notable successes and professional accomplishments in environmental restoration.

LEAD clinched the award with significant cleanup of soil and groundwater at the depot. The initiatives of LEAD's workforce led to the removal of 14,300 tons of contaminated soil, and cost savings of more than $300,000 for alternative land disposal initiatives. LEAD is also the pilot program for advanced technologies to clean groundwater. The great efforts at Letterkenny also provide opportunities for local small businesses; help form partnerships with federal, state and local regulators; and eventually will provide property that can be transferred for other uses.

Several folks from Letterkenny were present for the awards ceremony via video teleconference.

TARDEC engineer bikes across Michigan to raise money for MS research

Dan Nguyen, a software engineer from AMC's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center Next Generation Software Team, may not be readying himself for the très grueling Tour de France or breaking any Olympic cycling records, but what he is doing is admirable, charitable and from the heart.

Nguyen spent a July weekend participating in the Michigan Multiple Sclerosis 150, pedaling 150 miles and raising hundreds of dollars to combat the disease.

He said he enjoys biking and participated in a similar event while attending college. However, this year, he rode in tribute to an installation cafeteria worker battling the disease.

"The last time I talked to her co-worker," he explained, "they said she had to go to the hospital due to MS."

Nguyen's trek began July 12 in Davisburg, Mich., where he and his fellow riders set out for East Lansing, Mich., home of Michigan State University. After overnighting at the university, it was back on the road July 13 for the return bike ride to Davisburg and a celebration at the finish line.

Nguyen supports the Army's Program Executive Office for Ground Combat Systems.

Auto ID to transform military logistics

Information never before obtained about supplies and equipment will now be available to the military through the next generation of Radio Frequency Identification technology known as Auto-ID. The Department of Defense Combat Feeding Directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center has joined nearly 100 companies and five international research universities as sponsors of the Auto-ID Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Universal Product Code, a bar code of lines and numbers now used to identify objects, has existed since the 1970s for logistics management, but the technology is limited. Containers today can be tracked with RFID tags, and they have greatly improved the situation for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Still, Auto-ID offers more.

"We're starting to see tags with microchips in all kinds of products," said Kathy Evangelos, executive assistant to the Combat Feeding director. "Industry sees RFID as a replacement for the bar code, and Auto-ID takes it a step further."

The technology is based on the Electronic Product Code, a 96-bit code capable of identifying more than 80 thousand trillion, trillion unique items. An electronic tag containing an EPC on a microchip wirelessly stores and transmits data to a reader. Accurate automated inventories will eliminate the need for manual counts, according to Evangelos, which ultimately reduces the supply chain footprint and associated costs. EPC tags will allow automatic manifests to be written to containers, and sensor integration will provide the capability to monitor the status of an item, pallet or container by detecting variables such as temperature, vibration, rough handling, or chemical or biological contamination that could affect product quality.